

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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IF YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO COUNT ANTS...HERE'S YOUR CHANTS!

Just join jovial DAN QUINN later this spring as he participates in his favorite sedentary pastime at Jasper Ridge. And thanks to DAN for inviting Stanford Prof. Deborah Gordon who presented a fascinating story about a fascinating subject. Your scribe took copious notes as you, in turn, will note providing you can navigate to the lower reaches of this epistle....whatever I said!

FOLLOWING DON LANGENDORF'S LEADING OF THE PLEDGE...

Our We Care Committee Chairman, DICK FREEMAN, announced an upcoming trip to our Memorial Grove in Big Basin. 17 additional names of deceased members will be added to the bronze plaque. Tentative date is April 26th.

WE CARE COMMITTEE MEMBER BILL BUSSE...



Shared a few thoughts about HARRY BROWNE, who recently passed away. According to Bill, one of HARRY's claims to fame was co-authoring a resolution that influenced the course of Rotary International. "In 1970, when HARRY was our president, Rotary projects were initiated and performed by local clubs only...Evanston was not involved and did not want to be involved. HARRY formed a committee of three Brown(e)s and

presented a resolution that would position RI to itself take on International projects. Many years later, after STAN McCAFFERY, a staunch supporter of the resolution, had become RI President, Rotary International took on the challenge of ridding the world of polio...we called it Polio Plus." In the likely event Harry's resolution brought about Polio Plus, the world owes HARRY BROWNE a heart felt "THANK YOU".

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HARRY BROWNE

will be at St. Albert the Great, Catholic Church on Channing at the intersection with Harriet Street at 10am this Saturday March 21st.

"MAKE TIME TO CONVERSE WITH YOURSELF"



Or, according to ZAFAR IQBAL, you could miss out on an important conversation. In his Opening Remarks ZAFAR expanded on "conversation" to also mean "reflection"...noting that we should reflect on the fact this is the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and 800th anniversary of adoption of the Magna Carta. Why those events you might ask? Simply that the Magna Carta established the sovereignty of the

people over their governments...and at the end of the Civil War Lincoln, in his second Inaugural Address, reminded us that we should have "charity for all". So reflect on the meaning of these

events. Find time to speak with yourself. "You might meet a new guy!"

WELCOME TIM WATSON!

Membership Chairman BEN THRELKELD and sponsor, WALT HAYS, introduced our newest member...pointing out TIM's many past service activities. TIM is a lawyer by training, but has devoted his life to international development and assisting people in other countries. "Tim, we look forward to hearing your "New Member Talk" and finding out about your life in more detail. Again, Welcome!"



ROTARY DOES MEAN "BUSINESS"!

The business included a 1/2 K contribution from JACKIE SCHOELERMAN to The Rotary Foundation and an announcement that the next RMB meeting will be Thursday the 19th from 6 to 7:30pm. However, your scribe forgot to note the location...so Good Luck! Whoops.

LISA ASKELRAD to the rescue! It's at the new Hilton Garden Inn across from the Elks's Club. The speaker will be Tod Gregory... the subject, "Effective Networking." Whether you are an ineffective type or not, you need to be there!



ALL TOGETHER NOW "UNBELIEVABLE"!

During BRUCE GEE's presentation of the Auction Results he suggested that it would be appropriate to all repeat his father-in-law, and former Rotarian, BILLY ALHOUSE's, famous, and oft said expression, "Unbelievable" which we all did with gusto!

The bottom line was that we netted 70K for Rotary Charities. Bruce went on to thank the many volunteers who included his fabulous committee...PETER SHAMBORA, GINNY LEAR, and DICK BUSH. Others singled out were Auctioneer STEVE PLAYER, M.C. HAL MICKLESON, Clean-up expert TOM GRACON, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Gunn Interact Club, Ada's Workers and any others he or I forgot! Whoops! Just received a list of all the other volunteers...Here they are: Judith Steiner, Dana Tom, Mike Baird, Katie and Eric Seedman, Helen Gracon, Tom and Dennis McGinn, Charlie Weidantz, David Blitz, President EJ and Family, Jane Gee, King Lear, Patty McGuigan and Christine Shambora.

GREAT JOB ONE AND ALL!

VISITORS (And you thought I forgot!)

Our Rotarian from Finland, VILHELM FRANCU. Welcome Vilhelm!

Guests: Amy Andonian/ MIKE COUCH and Elise DeMarzo/KAREN KIENZLE

ANTS, ANTS EVERYWHERE!



DAN QUINN introduced Prof. Gordon by noting her extensive educational background...Oberlin, Stanford, Duke, Harvard, Oxford and the University of London. (She may be one of the world's experts on the life and times of our favorite pests.) He noted that DAN has been one of the volunteers who count Argentine ants at Jasper Ridge. The experience has led him to write a book on the subject, *Jasper Ridge Ants*.

Prof. Gordon began with a great cartoon showing an exterminator describing his work at ridding ants in flowery scientific language. If I hear back from her in time I'll add it to this Pinion. (You'll probably know if it doesn't arrive.) Her work has included sending ant colonies to the Space Station for experiments in a weightless atmosphere. The key to how ants are able to accomplish their food gathering is in their antennae. This interaction of touching directs their activities and leads them to food. Here are a few points she made:



- The queen ant just lays eggs. She has no political control.
- Queens live up to 30 years while her subjects may make it to 1 year.
- Ant touch-interactions are similar to neurons in our brains. It's an amazing process that seems totally convoluted, but is very successful.
- Worldwide there are over 14,000 species of ants.
- The communication process of ants is similar to the internet. Ants have been using algorithms for many many years.
- New colonies are built around daughters to the queen.
- Each queen produces 10 to 20 thousand ants each year.
- Determining how they interact may tell us how cancer cells reproduce.

The point is that ant colonies work with no one in charge...not too unlike some of our Rotary projects...that is, until somebody takes charge!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19 Rotary Means Business Meeting, New Hilton Garden Inn 4216 El Camino Real, Palo Alto across from the Elks Lodge

March 23 Marcy Darnovsky, ED of Center for Genetics and Society "Does Biotech Become Us? New Technologies and the Human Future"

March 30 Robert Siegel, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Stanford Medical School: "Infectious Disease and the Human-virus Relationship"